

Sick Lions in Gir

***297. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of lions are still sick in the Gir forest in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details, thereof, and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken to cure them?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) During the last two months five lions have died in the Gir Forests but none of the death is due to any infectious or communicable disease. The details regarding the deaths of the lions are as follows:

I. One lioness approximately 17 years of age died in Tulsishyam Range of Gir (East) Division. The death was due to old age, which was confirmed by the postmortem report.

II. One female cub of approximately 1-1/2 month old died on 24.6.2000 in Jambudi beat of Jasadhar Range. Postmortem was carried out and death due to any disease was ruled out.

III. One lion died on 26.6.2000 near Karamdadi Ness of Tulsishyam Range. Though, the postmortem was carried out, the cause of death could not be ascertained. Examination of viscera samples sent to Veterinary College, Anand, ruled out the possibility of animal dying of rabies.

IV. One lion was found dead on 28.6.2000 from a sugarcane field of Bhalchel village of Talala taluka of Gir (West) Division. The postmortem carried out and confirmed that death was because of electrocution. The offender was arrested on the same day and remanded for further investigations.

V. One cub adult lion was found dead on 22.7.2000 in a small nallaha near Khamba Village of Visavadar Taluka of Gir (West) Division. The postmortem on the lion did not point to any specific reason for the death. Viscera samples were sent to forensic laboratory, Junagarh, for further investigations. Though, the cause of

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death could not be ascertained, death of the lion due to any infectious disease has been ruled out.

Drop out Children

†*298. DR. D. MASTHAN:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment about the number of children between six to fourteen years of age who do not go to school to get education;

(b) if so, the total number of such children, State-wise; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of schools for these children?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per provisional figures for 1998-99, 11.09 crore boys and 4.03 crore girls in the 6—14 age group are enrolled in schools. Most recent surveys like the National Sample Survey 52nd Round 1995-96, National Council of Applied Economic Research Survey 1994, National Family Health Survey 1992-93 and 1998-99, indicate that more than 70% children are attending schools.

(b) Based on the population projection made by the Registrar General of Census, and the age specific attendance ratio given by National Sample Survey 52nd Round, the state-wise number of out of school children, is estimated as follows:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.